



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329
(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

To: Chairman Johnson, Commissioners Hodson, Huguenin, Leidigh, and Remy
From: Roman G. Porter, Executive Director
Subject: Legislative Report
Date: November 26, 2008

This report is a summary of legislative issues arising since the report sent to you prior to the last meeting of the Commission.

Legislature

The 2009-2010 Legislative session begins on December 1, 2008. In the Senate there were 20 seats up for election. The Senate will have 11 "new" senators, each with previous experience in the Assembly. A special election will be called by the governor to take place some time in 2009 to fill the vacancy in the 26th Senate District left when Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas resigned his seat after winning election to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The Democrats hold the majority of the Senate with 24 members to the Republicans 15, with one vacancy.

In the Assembly, all 80 seats were up for election. The Assembly will have a total of 28 "new" members, 25 who have had no prior experience as legislators. The Democrats hold the majority of the Assembly with 51 members to the Republicans 29.

Proposed Legislation

Staff proposes sponsoring amendments to Government Code section 82013 (Committee) to change the dollar threshold by one penny for individuals or entities who would become "major donor" committees. Currently if an individual or group of individuals makes contributions of \$10,000 *or more* in a calendar year they must report their contributions as a "major donor" committee. This disclosure is in addition to the reports filed by the recipient of the contribution(s). Requiring reporting of contributions made totaling *more than* \$10,000 in a calendar year will reduce the number of inadvertent violations of the Political Reform Act. The proposed language is below with additions underlined and deletions in strike-through.

§ 82013. Committee.

"Committee" means any person or combination of persons who directly or indirectly does any of the following:

- (a) Receives contributions totaling one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in a calendar year;
- (b) Makes independent expenditures totaling one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in a calendar year; or
- (c) Makes contributions totaling more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) ~~or more~~ in a calendar year to or at the behest of candidates or committees.

A person or combination of persons that becomes a committee shall retain its status as a committee until such time as that status is terminated pursuant to Section 84214.